

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture
www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in Georgia

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	*Projected 2003
Preparedness	12,249	10,106
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	6,126	2,806
Rehabilitation	4	
Fire Facilities	0	
Research and Development	0	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	528	3,465
State Fire Assistance	1,794	1,602
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	311	276
Economic Action Program	2,514	714
TOTAL	23,706	18,969

* Suppression costs for Georgia totaled \$20.9 million in 2002.

** Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

Program Highlights:

- Personnel from seven federal, state, county, and city agencies worked in a coordinated effort to successfully completed a 600-acre prescribed burn in the wildland urban interface on the Chatahoochee-Oconee National Forest.
- National Wildlife Refuges in Georgia received hazardous fuels treatments of thinning and prescribed burning in areas near wildland urban interface areas. These treatments will help reduce the risk of the regions being impacted by intense wildland fire.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ## USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
 - ## Department of the Interior will have a total of 18 firefighting personnel, 2 engines, 2 helicopters, 2 water/foam tenders, 3 dozers, and 5 tractor/plows.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 47,000 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 41,000 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$2.8 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$3.4 million.

Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$35,000
12 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$1.6 million
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$241,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$714,000.

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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